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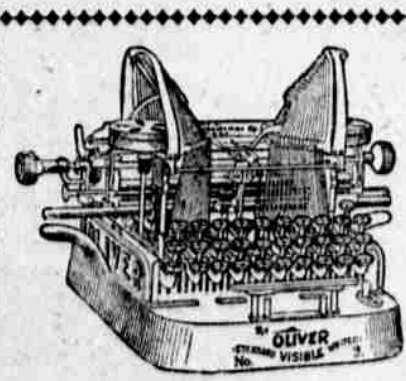
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AGRICULTURAL HINTS

FOR THE SMALL GARDEN.

Outdoor Hotbed Which May Be Established with Little Trouble.

A very practical hotbed may be constructed for use in a small garden. The bed should be placed in the south or southeast side of fence or building where it will be protected from north winds and receive the full direct rays of the sun. Dig a trench 18 inches deep and as wide and long as the size of the bed desired; 4x6 feet is usually sufficient. Make a frame of boards that will set in the north side, leaving one foot above the surface of the ground, and south side but six inches above ground, as shown in accompanying cut. This will allow sufficient slope to the sashes to insure its being rainproof.

Cover the top with a sash (c), made with 8x10 glass. Fill the bed with one foot of coarse horse manure (a), which has been cured under shelter and forked over a number of times to insure its being of the same fineness throughout. Tramp down solidly on bottom of bed, and putting on sash allow it to remain



SOIL POSITION OF HOTBED.

about four days until it heats, and again cools to 90 degrees. Then put in six inches of rich soil (b). Sandy loam is best, but if that is not available use a clay soil with sand added and mixed. Do not pack the soil firmly, but allow it to remain in a loose, open layer. Again cover bed and allow it to remain a day or two until the soil is thoroughly warmed and the temperature evenly established. Plant the seed in rows four to six inches apart. Cover lightly and water thoroughly.

Considerable care is necessary in attending a bed of this kind, says the Orange Judd Farmer. Give it all the sun possible, and when the sun falls directly upon the sash raise one edge a few inches to allow the air to change. Avoid allowing the cold air to blow directly upon the plants. Water heavily rather than frequently, soaking the ground at least once a week, or as frequently as the surface becomes dry. Stir the surface soil frequently, and do not allow it to bake into a hard cake. Be sure that it is loose enough for the tender plants to push through the surface. Some plants require more heat than others, and the bed must be kept more closely covered. Lettuce, radishes and cucumbers require cooler beds, about 65 to 68 degrees, while tomatoes, melons, etc., should be kept at a higher temperature. When the plants are sufficiently matured, they may be transplanted in the bed or removed to open ground and grown to maturity.

PICKUPS.

Have you oiled those harnesses? Good time now.

Crimp a hog ring around rope ends. It saves the annoyance of a large knot and frayed end.

Don't get so tied to your work and your farm that you cannot go to breeders' meetings, sales, fairs, shows and farmers' institutes.

Remember the cellar and give it a thorough ventilation occasionally in mild winter weather. If the cellar is a solid one, keep the fruit and vegetables covered. A good kerosene stove will help keep out the frost.

Don't pack the wood in the shed until the surface is well dried, or it will mold and ferment and the wood become punky. In an open shed with lattice upon all sides, it may be packed up as soon as cut if not piled too deeply.—Farm and Home.

Old coles plants saved from last summer may be started at any time now to supply next summer's needs. By repropagation from the earliest cuttings made a fine supply of stock plants will be ready to set out when the weather becomes warm. The old stocks will then be useless.

Low-Headed Trees.

The old-style orchard was often very high headed, with the limbs well up out of the way. The idea was to train the tree so high that teams could be driven under and to keep the limbs above the reach of cattle. Now that these items are of less importance to most orchardists, the tendency is in the opposite direction, until J. H. Hale asks pertinently: "What's the use of a trunk, anyway?"

It may be said in favor of the low-down tree that the fruit may be picked at considerably less cost and is not so likely to be blown off by the wind. Spraying is also less difficult. It is in many ways the better tree for those who do not cultivate directly under large trees and who keep cattle away from the orchard. In a row of the sturmer applies the trees were cut back much shorter than in many orchards, consequently the limbs are sturdy enough to hold the fruit without bending. These trees averaged about four cases to the tree. The trees branch out about eight or ten inches from the ground.—American Cultivator.

Steel Roadways.

The broad steel tracks for vehicles laid several years ago in Murray street, New York city, have been removed, and the street is to be paved with wooden blocks. The steel tracks were not regarded as a success, principally because of the crowded condition of the street, which prevented their regular use. The Scientific American contends that this was not conclusive, and that such tracks should be tried on long country hills and in districts where smooth, hard roadbeds cannot readily be maintained.

Prizes for Best Farms.

The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, whose object is "to help farmers to know how much money they make during the year and what crops are most profitable, and to promote and encourage clean, up-to-date and progressive farming," announces a contest in which prizes will be awarded for the four best all-around farms, not special crop farms, worked by their owners as their only business and means of support.

THE VALUE OF BRAN.

Some Facts Regarding the Food Properties of Wheat Bran for General Feeding Purposes.

In an article contributed to the Northwestern Miller, Prof. Harry Snyder says that for producing beef, milk, or for general feeding purposes, wheat bran is one of the cheapest and best foods that can be used. While there are other feeding stuffs which contain more protein, none contain their protein associated with other valuable nutritive substances in the same proportion as found in bran. Bran is one of the safest foods that can be fed to farm animals. It does not cause digestive disorders, even when fed in large amounts. It can be combined with and made to improve any kind of feeding stuff. It is alike valuable for beef or dairy animals, and can be fed to all kinds of live stock.

Some of the special characteristics of bran and its merits as an animal food are worthy of consideration. Wheat bran is distinctively an animal food, and not a human food. In the process of milling the bran is removed because it cannot be milled with the flour, and furthermore, the removal is necessary because it is indigestible as a human food. The human stomach is not made intended to digest bran, but farm animals, as cattle, sheep and horses, have stronger powers of digestion and utilize wheat bran to advantage. Bran occupies the same place as an animal food which flour does as a human food. Wheat bran consists of the outer layers of the wheat kernel, which are removed in the roller process of milling. From 12 to 15 per cent. of the wheat as milled is covered with bran. Average wheat bran contains about 18 per cent. of protein, four to five per cent. of fat, and 55 per cent. of carbohydrates. Wheat bran contains about eight per cent. of the fiber, from one-third to one-half of which is capable of being digested and utilized by farm animals.

As far as chemical composition is concerned, bran is not liable to be deficient in digestible protein, fat, or carbohydrates, the most valuable nutrients for feeding purposes. Compared with other grains and farm products, wheat bran contains a larger amount of protein and fat than corn, oats, rye, barley, spelt, or the various varieties of wheat. These grains usually contain from ten to 14 per cent. of fat. Thus it will be seen that as far as chemical composition is concerned wheat bran compares favorably with average farm grains.

MAKE CUTTINGS EARLY.

Simple and Easy Matter to Propagate Your Own Grapevines, Currants, Gooseberries, Etc.

It is a very simple and easy matter to propagate your own grapevines, currants, gooseberries and most ornamental shrubs. If a little skill is used these plants may be readily propagated from cuttings made late in the autumn after the leaves are off and preferably before cold weather comes on, says a writer in Farm and Home.

Well-ripened mature wood, which has grown during the past summer, should be selected and cut into lengths of six to ten inches. The base of these should be cut squarely just below the buds. They can be set in the fall in nursery rows two feet apart or tied in bundles of convenient size, with buds all one way and stored in the cellar or buried in the ground through the winter.

When spring comes most of the cuttings will have put on a callous where the butt comes in contact with the moist earth or sawdust, in which they have been buried. Even the roots may have started from some of them. As early as the soil can be worked and before the buds of the cuttings begin to grow, they should be planted out in good garden soil. The soil should be well worked, the rows lined out and the cuttings stuck, at an angle of 45 degrees, down to the top bud.

They should be given clean, frequent cultivation and hoed often to keep down all weeds during the summer. Usually an excellent growth will be made. Willows, poplars and some other varieties of trees, Marigolds and Golden Beauty plums, some varieties of quinces, spiraea, privet, barberry, mock orange and most varieties of shrubs can be propagated in this way.

COW-TAIL HOLDER.

Device Which Has Been Invented to Aid Dairywomen of an Annoyance in Fly Time.

A Michigan man has invented a device which offers relief to milkmaids. It is



THE COWTAIL HOLDER.

a cow-tail holder, and consists of a device to clamp upon the legs of the animal, with a flexible connection with another attached to the caudal member of the milk puryer.

Feed Daily.

Those who have sowspeas have a good "green food" for their fowls, and should not fail to see that they have a daily supply. Hens will eat the leaves dry, but if they are moistened with water or steamed the hens will think they are "in clover" and will eat accordingly. If the hay is given them in bulk the hens will get peas as well as leaves.

Milk Consumption.

The milk consumption of the country as a whole is estimated at about one-half pint per day per person. This would be greatly increased were people sure of the cleanliness of the milk they are offered. In the large cities this distrust greatly curtails the consumption.—Farmers' Review.

Good Whitewash.

A cheap and durable whitewash is made of Portland cement and quicklime in equal proportions. These should be slaked separately with water and thinned with skim milk to the desired consistency.

The Slavery of Sin

Sunday School Lesson for Mar. 12, 1905
Specially Prepared for This Paper.

LESSON TEXT.—John 8:14-49. Memory verses, 31, 32. Read also John 8:12-13. GOLDEN TEXT.—"Whosoever cometh to me and heareth my voice, I will give him life, and he shall never perish."—John 8:34.

PLACE.—Jerusalem, in the Temple.

NOTE FOR THE TEACHER.—The teacher must aim to make the lesson so interesting that the scholars will wish to be present every time he teaches the class. Pupils are fond of a teacher who stimulates thought. Let us be on guard against preaching. By preaching, I mean telling pupils what they ought to do; trying to make an impression. Give the truth a chance. It will make an impression if we set it forth in proper light. Let us teach. The application will be soon made if the truth be attractively presented. Often the application will be made by the pupils themselves, even before you finish teaching—before you begin to preach. It is possible to teach so that teaching preaches. This is the ideal way to preach. After all, then, we recommend preaching, but it is the preaching of the true teacher—to teach properly is to preach effectively.—Prof. W. W. White.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES.—The power of sin: Rom. 7 and 8; Deut. 28:15-67; Prov. 1:24-32; Gal. 3:1, 17; Rom. 6:16-23; Jas. 1:25. Liberty in Christ Jesus: Rom. 8:14-23; Luke 4:18, 19; Isa. 61:1; Rom. 6:22; 1 Pet. 2:16; Gal. 2:4, 5; 2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:29. Compare John 8:32 with 18:36.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

V. 31. "Jews which believed on Him." Not all of them accepted Jesus as their Saviour and Friend, but merely believed that His claims were well founded, and tried to reconcile what He said with their own ideas about an earthly kingdom. "Continue in my word." Try to understand what I tell you, and let your life be guided by My teachings and example. "My disciples." A disciple is a learner. The most clear evidence to one's self and others that one is truly a disciple of Jesus, is given by loving all men (John 13:35).

V. 32. "The truth." Jesus is the Truth. As we continue His disciples we shall more and more see things as He sees them—as they really are and in their right relations to one another. "Truth shall make you free." When in ignorance or doubt we are under bondage, but when we know the truth we are freed from anxiety, from uncertainty, from the desire to do wrong.

V. 33. "They answered Him." Their answer shows that they entirely misunderstood the spiritual meaning of His words. "Abraham's seed." Descendants of Abraham. "Were never in bondage." Jews were very proud, and pride is a peculiarly blinding sin.

V. 34. "Whosoever cometh to me is the servant of sin." Every one who is living a life of sin is the bond-slave of Satan. Each separate sin is like a chain binding him to a sinful life. Bad habits prevent him from doing what he knows to be right and often leads to do. No demon of evil binds with stronger or more galling chains than does the demon of strong drink. The drunkard is the most abject slave.

V. 35. "The bond-servant abideth not." (Rev. Ver.) No servant has the claim upon the master's home or property that a son has upon what belongs to his father.

V. 36. "The Son." Jesus. "Shall make you free." As the Son of God, He has power to release from servitude and make us His own "friends" (John 15:15) and children of God.

V. 37. "I know ye are Abraham's seed." Jesus confirms their statement that, according to the flesh, they are descendants of Abraham, but goes on to show that in a spiritual sense they are strangers to their great ancestor, hence do not belong to the kingdom of God, which is spiritual.

V. 38. "I speak . . . with My Father." From eternity, Jesus, the Son, had been with the Father, and hence had brought to earth true report of Heaven and heavenly things. "Ye do not hear from your father." Willingly, or unwillingly, every son, to some degree, repeats the characteristics of his father. Jesus proved himself Son of God by being Godlike in every particular. Israelites proved by their devilish purposes and deeds that they were animated by the spirit of the evil one (See v. 44).

V. 39. "They answered." Jesus' hearers either cannot, or will not, understand, but go back to their old cry. "Abraham is our father." Perhaps some to-day are making the same sad mistake, and because they have godly parents or are accounted members of a good church, fancy that they are Christians, though their lives are ungodly and their hearts are strangers to God. "If . . . ye would do." If you were in spirit like Abraham, your lives would show it.

V. 40. "Now ye seek to kill me." You, as a race, are doing directly contrary to what Abraham would do were he here. Abraham would have welcomed even a man who brought him a message from God, but these who claimed descent from Abraham were fierce to slay God's own Son. At a later day, Jesus taught this by parable, and the chief priests and Pharisees understood it, yet not even then did they turn from their evil purpose (Matt. 21:33-40).

Practical Points.

V. 31. If one's belief in Christ does not lead him to a righteous life, it is not a saving faith. "Thou believest there is a God; thou doest well; . . . but faith without works is dead."—Jas. 2:19, 20.

V. 34. Unless Christ now dwells with us, we cannot dwell with Him hereafter. "Father, I will that they also who Thou hast given me be with me where I am."—John 17:24.

V. 37. None but God himself can satisfy the soul which was created with Godlike appetites. "God created man in His own image."—Gen. 1:27.

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